THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No baseline data is available to show that beggary is on the increase in the country. State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have taken effective steps including penal action under local Laws to curb this practice. At present 18 States and 3 Union Territories have special Laws.

Utilization of funds for disabled persons

440. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds for disabled persons are not utilized;

(b) if so, the total funds earmarked for disabled persons during the last three years;

(c) how much funds were utilized and how much were unutilized;

(d) what are the main reasons for the same; and

(e) whether Government is considering to take concrete measures to utilize these funds properly in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) (a) to (e) Government of India releases funds for the various programmes connected with persons with disabilities mainly Non-Governmental Organisations, National Institutes, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. During 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Rs. 130.55 crore, Rs. 124.71 crore and Rs. 122.19 crore were released. Since there is no earmarking of funds State-wise, actual releases are dependent upon timely receipt of proposals with complete set of documents.

Taking into account past experience, the procedure for sanction of grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations has been streamlined from current financial year. The State Governments had been advised to send consolidated proposals after getting them scrutinized by a multi-disciplinary committee.

To ensure proper utilization of funds, periodic progress reports are obtained apart from audited statement of accounts, list of beneficiaries and urilization certificates.

Allocation of funds for SCs/STs

441. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make a budget allocation of 25 per cent exclusively for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the comparative details of budget allocation for SCs/STs during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that even after 60 years of independence, socio-economic conditions of the oppressed people had not improved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The comparative budget allocation for the last three years is as follows:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total allocation	For Scheduled Castes
2004-05	1237.34	905.10
2005-06	1539.032	1148.75
2006-07	1686.11	1285.17

Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total allocation	For Scheduled Tribes
2004-05	1069.45	1053.06
2005-06	1398.82	1391.95
2006-07	1652.68	1648.14

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Coverage of Old Age Homes

442. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total coverage of senior citizens under the Old Age Homes scheme; and

(b) how many needy aged persons are left uncovered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) About 43800 senior citizens benefited from the Old Age Homes supported by the Ministry in the year 2006-07.

(b) No records are available within the Ministry about the persons who may need the services of old age homes being funded under the Scheme.

Rehabilitation of differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu

443. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented by Government for the rehabilitation of differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu;